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H I P A A n o t e -- Volume 2, Number 22 -- June 12, 2002

>>From Phoenix Health Systems--HIPAA Knowledge--HIPAA Solutions<<
=>Healthcare IT Consulting & Outsourcing<=

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HANDS-ON HIPAA: A Professional Approach to Costing Your HIPAA Remediation Project

Budgeting for HIPAA remediation may be the most complex, difficult HIPAA compliance challenge facing many healthcare organizations. Join us Wednesday, June 26 at 2:00 PM Eastern time for a special audio conference presenting a detailed, professional approach to budgeting your organization's HIPAA remediation project. This not-to-be-missed program will focus on a detailed HIPAA Costing Model covering the major steps required in every HIPAA implementation.

Find out more and sign up at: <http://www.hipaadvisory.com/ezcart/>

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This week's HIPAAnote...

*** How is Your Organization's Patient Directory Impacted by the HIPAA Privacy Regulation? ***

If you are a healthcare provider, under the Privacy regulation your organization's directory may include certain patient information. However the following items should be communicated to your patients prior to or at registration time:

- * Your organization's policies concerning the directory
- * Patients are given notice to opt-out of the directory
- * Patients are allowed to restrict uses and disclosures of their information in the directory

Your organization may disclose the following information to persons who inquire about the patient by name.

- * The patient's general condition, as long as it doesn't communicate specific medical information about the patient - i.e. fair, critical, stable etc.
- * Location of the patient in your facility

Note that disclosure of directory information to clergy is a little different: in addition to patient name, general condition and facility location, you may disclose a patient's religious affiliation to a member of the clergy.

The Privacy regulation does not require that you ask patients for their religious affiliation nor does it require patients to provide that information to your organization. In fact patients can opt out of disclosing their religious affiliation to clergy in the patient directory. However, when a patient is incapacitated or in emergency situations where asking for a patient's consent to place information in a

directory would delay treatment, your organization can make decisions about inclusion of patient information in your patient directory.

In summary, the HIPAA Privacy regulation requires the provider to communicate to its patients their options prior to having their names placed on the directory. These options provide patients the opportunity to opt-out entirely from being listed in the directory or to restrict the use and disclosure of information in the directory.

Ken Schulkin,
Director, Phoenix Health Systems

That's today's HIPAAnote...now, pass it along!

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IT'S HERE! The brand new GUIDE TO MEDICAL PRIVACY AND HIPAA -- a comprehensive, 500-page reference on HIPAA how-to's across every compliance phase, including user-friendly analysis and advice by legal and consulting experts, plus sample forms, checklists, workplans and more -- even regular monthly updates and additions for a year!

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HIPAAnotes are published weekly as a learning tool to help you and your associates stay tuned-in to HIPAA and its implications. Forward it to anyone with a "need to know" through your own internal mailing list, intranet or newsletter -- whatever works for you...

Our HIPAAcratic oath: We'll use your ideas for HIPAAnotes -- send them!
Email D'Arcy Gue, Editor: info@phoenixhealth.com

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